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PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 3382-61341-01
Application Number 10/017,861

Remarks

Claims 1-59 are pending. In the Office action mailed February 10, 2006, the Examiner imposed a two-way restriction requirement as follows:

group I – claims 1-54; and

group II – claims 55-59.

The Examiner also separated group I into four species as follows:

species 1 – claims 1-16;

species 2 – claims 17-28;

species 3 – claims 29-35; and

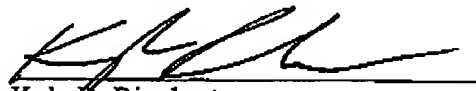
species 4 – claims 36-54.

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the reasoning stated for the restriction requirement, with the genus/species reasoning stated in the Office action, and with the Examiner's characterizations of the claims. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution, the Applicants hereby elect the claims of group I without traverse. Within group I, the Applicants hereby elect without traverse the claims of species 1 (claims 1-16) for prosecution on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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